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Serial No. 10/037,852
63428-063IN THE CLAIMS

1-4. (CANCELLED)

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The robotic arm as recited in claim 13 wherein said pair of sockets are made of aluminum.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The robotic arm as recited in claim 13 wherein each of said pair of sockets cover more than one half of a surface area of one of said balls.

7-9. (CANCELLED)

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ball and socket assembly for a robotic arm, comprising:

a ball and socket assembly including:

a socket component including a first clamp half and a second clamp half secured that are securable together to form a pair of sockets, said socket component including a each of said first clamp half and said second clamp half having a first outer face generally defining a first plane and a second outer face generally defining a second plane that is non-parallel with said first plane, wherein each of the first clamp half and the second clamp half form a portion of each of the pair of sockets bottom surface and a pair of faces each inclined relative to said bottom surface; and

a first pair of ball components each including an arm and a ball receivable partially within said first socket such that said first ball extends through said first plane; and

a second ball receivable partially within said second socket such that said second ball extends through said second plane, wherein each of said balls is received in one of said pair of sockets.

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14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The robotic arm as recited in claim 13 wherein said balls have a ball diameter of approximately 1.75 inch and said arms have an arm diameter of approximately 1.25 inch.
15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The robotic arm as recited in claim 13 wherein said balls are made of a ball material and said pair of sockets are made of a socket material, wherein said ball material is harder than said socket material.
16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The robotic arm as recited in claim 13 wherein said first clamp half and said second clamp half are secured together by a pair of bolts located between said pair of sockets.
17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The robotic arm as recited in claim 13 wherein said first clamp half and said second clamp half are secured together by four bolts, one of said four bolts being located over one of said pair of sockets, another of said four bolts being located under said one of said pair of sockets, one of said four bolts being located over the other of said pair of sockets, and one of said four bolts being located under said other of said pair of sockets.
18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The robotic arm as recited in claim 13 wherein a gap is defined between said first clamp half and said second clamp half.
19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The robotic arm as recited in claim 13 wherein said robotic arm includes a plurality of said ball and socket assemblies.
20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The robotic arm as recited in claim 13 wherein an angle defined between each of said pair of faces and a plane defined by said lower surface is approximately 75°.

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21. (ORIGINAL) The robotic arm as recited in claim 13 wherein said balls are serrated.
- 22-28. (CANCELLED)
29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The robotic arm as recited in claim 13 wherein said arm of each of said pair of ball components has a range of motion of 90°.
30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The robotic arm as recited in claim 18 wherein said gap is adjustable.
31. (CANCELLED)
32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The robotic arm as recited in claim 13 wherein each ball includes an arm that extends there from, wherein one of said arms can be pivoted relative to ~~while the other of said arms is locked in a fixed position.~~
33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The robotic arm as recited in claim 13 wherein movement of one of said balls in one of said pair of sockets pivotally adjusts a position of said arm.
34. (NEW) The robotic arm as recited in claim 13, wherein each of said first clamp half and said second clamp half is a single, distinct piece.
35. (NEW) A ball and socket assembly for a robotic arm, comprising:
a first ball having a corresponding first arm; and
a second ball having a corresponding second arm; and
a first clamp half and a second clamp half that are each a single, distinct piece forming a portion of each of a pair of sockets for receiving, respectively, said first ball and said

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second ball, said first clamp half and said second clamp half are selectively securable together to permit pivotal movement of said first ball and said second ball in an adjustment position and prevent pivotal movement of said first ball and said second ball in a secured position.

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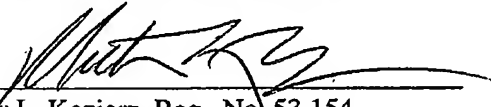
weight to the distinct and different features of the "pair of sockets" and the "pair of faces" recited in claim 13. Under the Examiner's interpretation, the pair of sockets is the same as the pair of edges. The curved inside walls of the sockets are part of the socket and are not a separate and distinct feature from the sockets. Indeed, claim 13 recites that the *socket component* includes a pair of sockets and a pair of faces that are inclined relative to the bottom surface, *not that the sockets include a pair of faces that are inclined*. Accordingly, the rejection is improper, and claim 13 and its dependents are allowable.

Claims 5, 14-15, 19, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Herbermann. The rejected claims depend from patentable independent claim 13 and therefore the rejection is moot. Modifying Chen with Herbermann would not render the claims obvious because, as described above, Chen does not disclose a pair of sockets and a pair of faces that are each inclined relative to the bottom surface of a socket component as recited in applicant's claim 13. Accordingly, claims 5, 14, 15, 9, and 21 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully Submitted,

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